

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

Communion With God

James Southbridge

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #15

*All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen
(verse 6)*

***O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Micah 6:8)

One: What does the Holy One require of us?

All: To do justice;

One: To love kindness;

All: To walk humbly with God.

One: Let us worship God.

*GATHERING PRAYER

One: Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ Our Savior. **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG

*O God, by Your Mercy, We Come to This Place St. Denio
(verse 1)*

O God, by your mercy we come to this place. We feast at your table on gifts of your grace. We taste your forgiveness, then learn what to do: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly" with you.

(verse 2)

O Christ, we're not strangers or enemies here. For we're at your table, and you've made it clear: We all are God's children, and blessed from above, we're global, connected, and shaped by your love.

(verse 3)

Lord, we look around and see hate everywhere. Yet, you've shown us grace! It's a gift we're to share. May we share this grace till your blessings increase through justice and dialogue, kindness and peace.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures, hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy, clinging to power and privilege whenever we can. Set us free from greed and fear. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Teach us to trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #15

*All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen
(verse 4)*

***All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia!
Alleluia! Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst
of tears, sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Forgiven and set free, let us be reconciled with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Genesis 2:4b-9, 15*

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

TIME FOR CHILDREN**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING***Acts 17:22-28**(Adapted from First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament)*

So Paul stood up in the center of Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I can see that in all things you are a very spiritual people. As I walked around, I saw some of your sacred objects. One altar had this message carved into it:

DEDICATED TO AN UNKNOWN POWERFUL SPIRIT

So then, the one you sacredly honor without knowing is the one I will make known to you. The Great Spirit is the one who created the universe and all things in it. Since he is the rightful ruler of the Spirit-world above and the earth below, he does not live in lodges built by human hands. Creator does not really need human beings to do things for him, since he is the one who give all people life and breath and everything we need.

Beginning with the first human being, he made all tribes and nations. He wanted people to live all over the face of the earth. He decided ahead of time when and where each tribe would live. He did this so that all people could look for him and find the trail that leads to him. Creator is not far away from any of us. It is through him that we live, walk, and have our being. As some of your song makers have said, 'We are children of the Great Spirit.'"

THE MESSAGE*"Creator of All"**Rev. Dr. John Wahl***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING / WORLD COMMUNION SPECIAL OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

Choral Prelude on "Dix"

Steven Scott

*DOXOLOGY

*O God, by Your Mercy, We Come to This Place
(verse 5)*

St. Denio

***O Spirit, we pray that you'll move through the church, till
peace, love and unity cover the earth. O God, bless these
gifts with your grace from above, till others find joy in the
feast of your love.***

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving God, creator and sustainer of life. You planted the first fields — wheat, barley, rice, and maize — and made us in your image to care for your creation. You fed your people in the wilderness with manna from heaven, leading them to a land of milk and honey. When human greed trampled the poor you spoke through the prophets, calling us to worship you with justice and peace.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, the living bread, to lift up the oppressed and lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Therefore, we praise you, joining the faithful who hunger and thirst for righteousness and singing the hymn of the whole creation:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: We praise you, most holy God, for Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. He taught us to share the abundance of your love, feeding the multitude, eating with sinners and strangers, offering his own body to save us, and pouring out his life for the world. When the risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. Even now he sets the table for us, inviting all to taste and see that you are good.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in

*Please stand as you are able.

remembrance of me. In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering all that you have done in Jesus Christ, we offer our lives to you with great thanksgiving as we share this feast of love and grace.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this meal, a great multitude from every nation. Keep us faithful to Christ's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, sharing our goods with one another, and giving our possessions to those who are in need, so that all people may have their daily bread, this day and every day. Just as the grain, once scattered across the hills, was gathered together in this loaf of bread, gather your people from the ends of the earth, so that we may feast with you in glory in the joy of your new creation. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe, for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace. Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC Kee

(verse 1)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

(verse 2)

True faith will open up the door and step into the street. True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

(verse 3)

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied. True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

(verse 4)

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need, then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

(verse 5)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

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*Please stand as you are able.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Peace Be Upon You

Wilshire

***POSTLUDE**

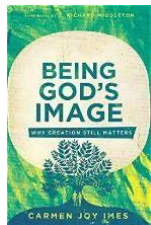
The Church's One Foundation

Edward Broughton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Study – *Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters* by Dr. Carmen Joy Imes



I was recently introduced to the deep theological insights and scholarship of the author during my study leave seminar at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Michigan. Her book is insightful, but easy-to-read, and includes suggested scripture readings and discussion questions for each chapter. Weekly sessions will last 60-75 minutes and include an accompanying video from The Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/all>.

Eleven weekly sessions - Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (September 21 – December 7) in the Church Library. Books are available in the Church office for \$15.

Pet Blessing

Blessing of Animals is sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches and will take place:



Sunday, October 4, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

at

Valley Presbyterian Church
(under the portico)

All donations will go to the Geauga County Dog Warden and Animal Rescue Village.

Sarah Circle 2026-27

We'd love to have you join us!

The next meeting for 2026-27 will be:

Tuesday, October 13

Our study this year:

***United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other —
Paul's First Letter to Corinthians***

Meet September – May the second Tuesday of each month, 10:30 a.m. – noon, in the Church Library. For more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.



Flowers

The flowers today are dedicated by Janet Graham in memory of Larry Graham.

Mid-week Lunch Group – October 13



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the Church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (October 13, November 10, December 8, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Dougbe River School Gala

Sunday, October 18

4:30-8:00 p.m.

Banquet Center at St. Noel

35200 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

Valley has purchased a table for eight for the gala and invites anyone



interested to attend for an evening of good food, great silent auction items, entertainment, and an opportunity to learn more about how to support the present and future of this amazing mission. Please contact Pastor John or the church office, if you are interested in attending and carpooling.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Any meat, fresh fruit / vegetables, milk, eggs, lunch meat, bread, snacks, or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



**The group will meet on Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
October 11 & 25**

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. We are currently making items for babies and young children. If you have any size-3 or 4 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked "yarn" in the Library. Thank you so much for your help. For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, October 23 (1 – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, October 24 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at
440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Donations” in the header. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate or purchase via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Bernice Denham

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Amy & Bill Belew